



Athletic Field Design

Decorate your field - It's easy & inexpensive

By Mike Hebrard, Athletic Field Consultant

The problem: how to mark or decorate athletic field centers or end zones with a limited budget? The solution can provide excellent graphics at a very low cost. The better way to accomplish this, rather than freehand or stringing edges or letters, etc., was by using an erosion control product called Saxolin-X. This is a biodegradable netting made from spun cellulose fiber.

After seeing a landscaper spraying a pattern on the fabric to create a design for planting ground cover, I felt that the netting, made of paper, would lend itself to use in plotting patterns on turf. Placing the netting against a large wall, such as in a gym, and using an opaque projector to project the design, provided a way to accurately mark the net. Smaller pieces of net can be sewn together to make as large a design as is desired.

The net is carefully centered where you want it on the field, anchored by pegs, and an inverted spray may be used to trace the pattern from the net to the turf. After tracing the pattern, fold up the net and store it. Most logos are used only once at the start of the season and the net can be stored until next needed.

To fill in the design, use a hand pump sprayer with adjustable nozzle and wand, such as Spraying Systems' Triggerjet with a two foot wand. You can be very detailed with your application of the spray and then outline with a contrasting school color.

Investigate the paint. The lowest cost product may not be the best. Painting more frequently costs more than using the best paint. Some have a high level of metal acetate salts or combinations of iodized carbonates, etc. which kill turf. Other paints might be overruns or mis-tinted which are then modified for athletic turf. Use good quality field marking paint such as [Pioneer Brite Stripe](#) which is designed for all types of athletic fields and will not harm the turf. It actually enhances root growth and permits photosynthesis to continue through the paint film.

Using this method with the desired colors, you can transfer desired designs with minimal effort. One team sent its stencil along before it played in a championship game so that its logo could be used at the away field.